

## REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 26, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-7, 10-13 and 15-26 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 18-20 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 8-9 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 12 and 17-20, which were objected to, are rewritten as new claims 21-26. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Examiner contends that the preamble of claim 1 is confusing. Although Applicants believe that the preamble of claim one is clear as originally presented, Applicants have amended the preamble of claim 1 to more clearly recite that the claim is directed to a method for reducing the sensitivity of a voltage to a channel resistance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tedrow et al. (US Pat. 5,546,042, hereinafter Tedrow). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tedrow discloses a circuitry for adjusting a voltage generated by a sample and hold circuit 501 (Fig. 5). A voltage reference circuit 515 provides a reference voltage, and a number of serially connected resistors R3 to Rk are provided, wherein switches N2 to Nk are connected as shown in Fig. 5 of Tedrow. Control voltages supplied at the gates of the switches are supplied by a control engine which controls the output voltage Vout.

However, Tedrow does not teach, show or suggest generating the control signals from one or more non-volatile storage elements, as defined in original claims 4, 9 and 14, which are incorporated into amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively. In this respect, the sections cited by the Examiner (Fig. 2, element 30; Col. 3, lines 37 to 42; Col. 4, lines 27 to 46 and Col. 7, lines 35 to 39) disclose that the control voltages are supplied by the control engine, but fail to teach, show or suggest generating the control signals from one or more non-volatile storage elements.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the independent claims 1, 7 and 13, as amended, and those depending therefrom, are patentable over Tedrow. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 12 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12 and 17-20 have been rewritten as new claims 22 and 23-26, respectively, incorporating all respective limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner states that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 has been rewritten as new claim 21, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that the preamble has been rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Therefore, Applicants submit that new claims 21-26 are in condition for allowance.

#### **Conclusion**

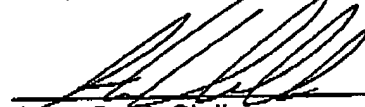
The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a

PATENT  
SZS&Z Ref. No.: 10031004PUS  
Attorney Docket No.: 2003P52582US (INFN/SZ0018)

detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Gero G. McClellan  
Registration No. 44,227  
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants